GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4473
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2007
LITERACY RATE
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the current literacy rate in the country, gender-wise, State and Union Territory- wise;

(b) whether the country is lagging behind many developing countries in terms of literacy rate;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. A. A. FATMI)

(a): As per Census 2001, the literacy rate of the country is 64.84%. Tne male literacy rate is 75.26% and female literacy rate is 53.67%. A statement indicating the State-wise literacy rates of males and females is enclosed as Annexure.

(b) & (c): As per Education For All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report 2007, the literacy rates of some developing countries like Sri Lanka and Maldives are higher than India whereas literacy rates of other countries like Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh are much lower than that of India.

(d): The Universalisation of Elementary Education and eradication of adult illiteracy form the two-pronged strategy for improving the literacy rate of the country. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a comprehensive programme for universalizing quality Elementary Education by 2010.
The National Literacy Mission (NLM) aims to impart functional literacy to the non-literates in the 15-35 age-group. The thrust areas of NLM are improving female literacy in low female literacy areas, organizing projects for residual illiteracy in districts which have substantial number of illiterates, setting up of continuing education centres for providing opportunities for life - long learning to the neo-literates and imparting vocational training to neo-literates through Jan Shikshan Sansthans. So far 597 districts have been covered under Adult Education Programmes which include 101 under Total Literacy Campaigns. 168 under Post Literacy Programme and 328 under Continuing Education Programme. 26 State Resource Centres have been set up to provide academic and technical resource support for the literacy programmes. Further, 197 Jan Shikshan Sansthans have also been sanctioned to provide vocational education to the neo-literates and other disadvantaged sections of the society. 150 districts of the country, which have the lowest literacy rates, have been identified for launching of a special literacy drive for eradication of residual illiteracy in these areas.